

**Security Council**

Distr.: General

18 October 2016

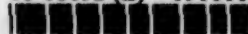
English

Original: Russian

Letter dated 14 October 2016 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you a concept paper for the open debate of the Security Council on the topic: "Women and peace and security" to be held on 25 October 2016 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would arrange for this letter and its annex to be circulated as an official document of the Security Council.

(Signed) V. Churkin

Annex to the letter dated 14 October 2016 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Russian]

Open debate in the Security Council on the topic: "Women and peace and security: implementing the common agenda"

Concept paper

In 2000, the Security Council adopted resolution 1325 "Women and peace and security" which, for the first time, focused on the impact of armed conflict on women and girls, the role of women in peacebuilding and the gender dimensions of peace processes and conflict resolution. Since then, the Security Council has adopted seven additional resolutions on the topic "Women and peace and security" including resolution 2122 (2013), in which the Council reiterated its intention to convene a high-level review to assess progress at the global, regional and national levels in implementing resolution 1325 (2000). To prepare for that review, the Security Council invited the Secretary-General to commission a global study on the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) highlighting examples of good practice, implementation gaps and challenges, as well as emerging trends and priorities for action.

The open debate held in the Security Council in October 2015 to review the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000), in which 110 speakers participated, generated an unprecedented level of interest. The Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 2242 (2015), in which it recognized the significance of the fifteenth anniversary of resolution 1325 (2000) as well as the opportunity and need for far greater implementation of the women and peace and security agenda.

A number of Member States noted that despite progress made since the adoption of resolution 1325 (2000), implementation of its provisions was still lagging. Women and children still suffer disproportionately in conflict and post-conflict situations, especially now that terrorist groups such as Boko Haram and Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) are specifically targeting women. The need was also stressed to include women on an equal footing with men at all stages of peace processes, peacekeeping and peacebuilding. Member States and regional organizations that participated in the open debate made more than 160 political, institutional and financial commitments.

The 2016 report of the Secretary-General on women and peace and security provides information on progress made in the follow-up to the High-level Review, including the recommendations by the Secretary-General in the global study and the new commitments made in the context of the Review, as well as appropriate monitoring and evaluation arrangements for the United Nations system.

The report also highlights noteworthy advances in the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000). Today, more and more women are involved in peace talks, more and more peace agreements include provisions that relate to the specific needs of women and girls and support their human rights, and more and more security sector personnel receive training in preventing and responding to sexual and other violence against women. Nevertheless, further concerted efforts are needed.

Scope of the open debate

During its presidency of the Security Council in October 2016, the Russian Federation will convene the annual open debate on the topic "Women and peace and security" to consider progress made in fulfilling the commitments of Member States, regional organizations and the United Nations in relation to the High-level Review on the topic "Women and peace and security" conducted in October 2015, as well as future steps to advance the women and peace and security agenda.

Member States, United Nations entities, relevant regional organizations and civil society should promote the equal and effective participation of women in efforts to maintain and strengthen peace and security. Women's needs should be included in security planning and monitoring. United Nations entities need to further improve coordination of gender mainstreaming in peacekeeping and peacebuilding missions. All parties to armed conflicts must commit to complying with their obligations under international humanitarian, refugee and human rights law in order to ensure protection of the civilian population and, in particular, women and girls.

In his 2015 report (S/2015/716), the Secretary-General recommended priority areas for action. The open debate will provide a platform for Member States and regional organizations to share their experiences and information on efforts to fulfil the commitments they made in October 2015 and the outcome of the High-level Review. It will also provide an opportunity to consider how Member States, regional organizations and the United Nations can continue to promote the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) and to address obstacles and constraints which have emerged over the 16 years since its adoption.

No outcome document is planned for adoption at this meeting.

Date/time: 25 October 2016, 10 a.m.

Venue: Security Council chamber

Speakers:

- (a) The Secretary-General
- (b) The Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director of UN-Women
- (c) Ms. Rita Lopidia, Executive Director and Co-founder of the EVE Organization for Women Development, South Sudan (on behalf of the NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security)